



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region



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**Edmund G. Brown, Jr.**  
Governor

### Meeting Minutes

Los Angeles Water Board Meeting  
February 2, 2012  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Fran Diamond at 9:15 am.

Chair Fran Diamond swore in, rendered and had repeated an Oath to newly appointed Board member, Lawrence Yee.

Item 1. Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Maria Camacho, Fran Diamond, Madelyn Glickfeld, Mary Ann Lutz, Maria Mehranian, Irma Muñoz, and Charles Stringer.

Board Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Sam Unger, Deborah Smith, Paula Rasmussen, Ronji Moffett, Jennifer Fordyce, Alex Carlos, Sarah Olinger, David Hung, Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Rebecca Veiga-Nascimento, Cassandra Owens, Hugh Marley, Michael Lyons, Rosario Aston, Brandi Outwin-Beals, Hugh Marley, Elizabeth Erickson, Thizar Tintut-Williams, Teklewold Ayalew

#### Individuals whose Names Appear on the Sign-In Sheet and/or Speaker Cards

Ms. Kirsten James, Heal the Bay	Mr. Mark Grey, Construction Industry Coalition WQ
Ms. Susie Santilena, Heal the Bay	Dr. Vada Yoon, City of Signal Hill
Ms. Liz Crosson, Santa Monica Baykeeper	Ms. Ann Heil, L.A. County Sanitation District
Mr. Richard Parsons, Ventura Port District	Mr. John Kemmerer, USEPA
Mr. Justin Hobbs, Hadronex-Smartcover	Mr. Kerjon Lee, L.A. County Flood Control District

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## Item 2. Order of Agenda.

*The Executive Officer stated that Item 9, Port of Los Angeles New Dock Street Pump Station is being continued.*

## Item 3. Approval of draft meeting Minutes for the December 8, 2011 Board meeting.

**MOTION:** To continue the draft meeting Minutes for December 8, 2011 meeting due to some excluded discussion by the Board, which was mistakenly omitted.

First: Board member Madelyn Glickfeld

Second: Vice Chair Charles Stringer

Vote: Approved by unanimous vote

## Item 4. Board Member Communications.

*There were no communications that constituted disclosure.*

## Item 5a. Executive Officer's Report

Report and Addendum Report was given to the Board. The Report was posted on the Board's website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles>

## Item 5b. Enforcement Report.

*There was no oral report during this meeting.*

Item 6. Update from State Board. This Report was made by liaison and State Board member Fran Spivy-Weber. Ms. Weber made but was not limited to the following comments.

- Currently the Waterboards are almost one hundred percent funded by fees, which warrants an explanation on how our money is spent. The first report is due in March 2012.
- The main issue with State Board at this time is to adopt a Septics Policy in March 2012
- State Board will have its first informational update on the Delta in March 2012
- The Water Quality division at State Board has been reorganized
- State Board will hold a Chairs meeting in March 2012

## Item 7. Election of Chair and vice Chair for 2012.

*Board member Madelyn Glickfeld stated that initially she was not on the Committee, but was asked later on to sit as the second committee member with Board Member Irma Muñoz (replacing Board member Charles Stringer). Ms. Glickfeld made a Motion to elect Board Member Maria Mehranian as Chair, and Board member Charles Stringer for Vice Chair for 2012. This motion was seconded by Board member Irma Muñoz, and passed unanimously. The Gavel was passed to Chair Maria Mehranian.*

Approval of Uncontested Calendar.

*Executive Officer Sam Unger announced the Consent items as follows: Items 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.*

*Vice chair Charles Stringer indicated that he had a couple of basic questions that he needed answers for before a decision was made to adopt the full Uncontested Items calendar.*

*Vice Chair Stringer had concerns about the compliance history of the permittee (ConocoPhillips Company-Los Angeles Refinery, Carson Plant), and asked clarification of the term used in the permit that say "No Violations".*

*Chief Deputy Executive Officer Deborah Smith responded, that the term indicates that no discharges had occurred. Ms. Cassandra Owens, Unit Chief at Regional Board added that there are no violations either.*

*Vice Chair Stringer also had questions about the compliance history for Item 12 for the Santa Paula Wastewater Recycling Facility.*

*Ms. Elizabeth Erickson, Regional Board staff and project manager summarized the compliance history of the facility and other background to the Board. She indicated that the largest set of violations referred to the old plant, and that the new plant has only one coliform violation, and that the effluent violations were for the old facility. She clarified the actions that are being used to remedy the violations.*

*Chief Deputy Executive Officer, Deborah Smith made comments clarifying that this is not a permit for renewal, and that the facility is just switching compliance points.*

**MOTION:** To deem non-controversial and approve Agenda Item(s): Items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.

First: Vice Chair Charles Stringer  
Second: Board Member Fran Diamond  
Vote: Approved by unanimous vote

Item 7. Public Forum Speakers:

- Mr. Justin Hobbs, Hadronex - Smartcover

Item 15. Adoption of tentative NPDES Permit for the West Basin Municipal Water District's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Plant.

Staff Report by Ms. Brandi Outwin-Beals, Unit Chief Permitting (*Ms. Beals made, but was not limited to the following points in her presentation.*)

- The public comment period closed on December 8, 2011
- Updated requirements include new limits from ammonia and increased discharge from 4.5 to 5.2
- Heal the Bay supports the chronic toxicity monitoring, but opposes removal of monitoring constituents based on Reasonable Potential Analysis
- West Basin commented asking to allow the use of the 1-mile out-fall when used by Hyperion (as occurred in 2008)

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## Public Comment:

- Mr. John Kemmerer of USEPA indicated that he reviewed the comments that were received and he recommends that the Board adopt the permit.

## Board Comments:

- Asked clarification on the Reasonable Potential Analysis (RPA)
- Asked clarification on the testing option for toxicity testing
- Is it likely the TST method will be removed from the permit as a testing option?

MOTION: To adopt the tentative NPDES Permit as recommended by Regional Board Staff and USEPA.

First: Board member Fran Diamond

Second: Board member Madelyn Glickfeld

Vote: Approved by unanimous vote

## Item 16. Ventura Port District (Maintenance Dredging)

Staff Report. Mr. Michael Lyons. (*Mr. Lyons made, but was not limited to the following points, during his presentation.*)

- Gave historical background for the site
- Ventura Port District has performed maintenance dredging in Ventura Harbor since 1977
- Discussed the dredging history of the site
- The site dredges up to 100,000 cubic yards per year
- The amount of dredged material is a small fraction of natural sediment load carried by river after storms
- Discussed the disposal of dredged material
- The Port dredged 3 times under Order R4-2006-0087 (51,170 cubic yards (cy) in 2008; 26,897 cu in 2009, and 35,667 cy in 2011)
- The Port proposes to dredge up to 100,000 yards of sediment per year which they have not done before
- Over the past 20 years the average has been about 25,000 yards per year
- Discussed disposal alternatives
- Discussed the comments received by Heal the Bay, and Ventura Coastkeeper
- Was able to resolve most of the issues raised by the Enviros

Public comment/Interested Parties

- Mr. Richard Parsons, rep. Ventura Port District (in support)
- Ms. Susie Santilena, Representing Heal the Bay and Ventura Coastkeeper (has concerns that the data reviewed was from 2009, asked that staff review the 2012 data and make changes as needed; and has concern with material being disposed at the mouth of the river)

Board comments:

- Asked staff to address the DDT issues, and asked if levels exceed the limits for DDT?
- Asked clarification as to whether or not the material is considered contaminated or not contaminated?

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- Asked, if it is customary to deposit sediments at the mouth of a river?
- When sand is found, is it samples?
- If the sand is not clean, what happens to it?
- If we issue this permit today, can we put language into the permit that states that no dredging would occur until after the new data I received and reviewed?
- Do we separate our sediment monitoring on whether or not there is a storm?

*A representative from the Port District approached the microphone and stated that, "the Port cannot dredge until the new data is received".*

**MOTION:** To adopt the permit with language changes as proposed:

- No dredging should occur until after 2012 sediment data are collected and analyzed.
- On page 16-9 of permit, insert #8A to read, "Executive Officer shall make determinations and apprise the board. This process will occur regularly as sediment data are collected."
- Area D shall be sampled to determine if materials can be considered for disposal at the mouth of the Santa Clara River or if requested in-harbor disposal is required.

First: Board member Fran Diamond

Second: Board member Maria Camacho

Vote: Approved by unanimous vote

Closed Session break taken at 12:38

Board reconvened at 2:07

Item 17. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to approve the list of Basin Planning Priority Projects for the 2011-2013 Triennial Review

Staff Report. Ms. Rebecca Veiga-Nascimento. *(During her presentation, Ms. Nascimento made, but was not limited to the following points.)*

- Federal Clean Water Action section 303 (c)(1) requires the water quality standards to be reviewed every 3 years
- State Requirement is to Review the Basin Plan
- California Water code section 13240 states the "Each regional board shall formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region...Such plans shall be periodically reviewed and may be revised."
- The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for surface and groundwater, and sets narrative and numerical objectives
- Discussed the Triennial Review Process
- Described the recommended projects
- Step 1 – Identify Standards related to issues (fall 2011)
- Step 2 – Prioritization/selection of projects
- Step 3 – Develop individual Basin Plan amendments
- Recommended projects include: Region-wide constituents (CECs) of emerging concern strategy; Region-wide ground water quality protection strategy; Policy to interpret Narrative Water

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Quality objectives; Development of Technical Guidance for making Natural Source Determinations;, and to Accommodate and support any Legal Mandates

- Received only three comment letters
- There is support for all of the projects
- Staff has completed or made significant process on priority projects for all 2008-2010 Triennial Review
- Discussed the concerns in the comment letters and staffs responses to the concerns

Public speakers:

- Ms. Ann Heil, L.A. County Sanitation District (in support)
- Ms. Vada Yoon, Flow Science, City of Signal Hill (Opposed - do not believe that Rec 1 and Rec 2 are supportive)
- Ms. Kirsten James, Heal the Bay (opposed)
- Mr. Mark Grey, Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality (opposed)

Board questions and concerns:

- Does EPA have technical guidance expressed the Ground Water strategy as important enough to be one of top priorities
- Is there technical guidance for natural resource determinations?
- Commented on TMDL Implementation
- Commented on site-specific objectives
- Expressed gratitude that recycled water was added
- Believe that there should be dialogue about the channels
- Indicated that ground water study is a big priority, and improving water quality in ground water basins, as well to the need to help fund needed work for this strategy

MOTION: To adopt the tentative Resolution with proposed changes as indicated below. (Some of the priorities were shifted from the draft, and are available on the Los Angeles Waterboard website:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles>)

- Consider existing regulatory mechanisms and propose new mechanisms to encourage and/or require water recycling in the Los Angeles Region.”
- Added language to Staff Report to address regulatory mechanism to address ground water that is put into the storm drain system.

First: Board member Fran Diamond

Second: Vice Chair Charles Stringer

Vote: Approved by unanimous vote

(For more detailed information on any matter at our meetings, you may contact Ronji Moffett at (213) 576-6612 or [rmoffett@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rmoffett@waterboards.ca.gov) and she may provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio.)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Written and submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_, then finalized on

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Ronji R. Moffett

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